

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1112
By Maggart

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Conn Hamlett, "Genius and Nice Guy", upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those outstanding professionals who have dedicated their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Conn Hamlett is most assuredly one such superlative professional, and he will take a well earned retirement after serving with distinction as a teacher and department head at Goodpasture Christian School in Madison, Tennessee, for the past thirty-one years; and

WHEREAS, born on July 3, 1942, to Troy and Aline Hamlett, Conn Hamlett graduated in 1960 from Kennett High School in Kennett, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, after attending Freed-Hardeman College in Henderson, Tennessee, from 1960 to 1962, he continued his education at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, and went on to receive his bachelor's degree in History from Lipscomb University in Nashville, in 1964; an exemplary student, Conn Hamlett made the Dean's List each semester and graduated *magna cum laude*; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Conn Hamlett served in the United States Army Reserve from 1964 to 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he earned a master's degree from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, finishing in the top ten percent of his class with a grade point average of 3.85; and

WHEREAS, Conn Hamlett served as Principal of White House Junior High School in White House, Tennessee, from 1968 to 1970, and taught at Goodpasture Christian School in Madison from 1970 to 1973; he was Principal of Gallatin Junior High School in Gallatin,

Tennessee, for the 1974-1975 school year; and then returned to teach at Goodpasture Christian School, where he has remained for the past thirty-one years, primarily teaching History and Latin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamlett has been a gregarious, creative, and memorable instructor, spending much of his free time with his students while sponsoring extracurricular school groups, including the Classical History Club; club legend has it that his school-wide announcement, "Notes on Assyrian War Chariots are now available," was actually code for, "Place your orders for Krystal hamburgers now!"; and

WHEREAS, not content to confine his talents strictly to the classroom, Mr. Hamlett has also demonstrated a lifelong commitment to physical fitness; as a wrestling champion, bodybuilder, and Golf Team Coach, Conn Hamlett has enjoyed success in the athletic arena as well as in the academic; and

WHEREAS, a man of unlimited skill and boundless energy, Mr. Hamlett is also an experienced global tour guide, a polished radio performer, and a Quiz Bowl Team sponsor and coach; he managed numerous charitable and service projects over a period of twenty years for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), including FCA camps and Union Rescue Mission service; and

WHEREAS, though his interests are many and diverse, Conn Hamlett ultimately chose to devote the majority of his career to teaching, so that he might become a positive and beneficial influence in the lives of young people; he views teaching as a calling, not a job, and his greatest reward in teaching is watching a student master a new concept or skill and understanding that this knowledge is part of a continual process of learning that will empower and enrich his or her life; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments notwithstanding, Conn Hamlett is most grateful for the love and support of his wife of forty-two years, the former Barbara Faye Boone, and they are the proud parents of two sons, Byron Conn Hamlett and Roger Lee Hamlett; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamlett is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as

citizens; he truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Conn Hamlett truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Conn Hamlett, "Genius and Nice Guy," for his generous dedication to his students and his community and offer our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.